

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for production of organic plant growth media from sawmill waste, said process comprising the steps of:-  
introducing comminuted sawmill waste into an inlet of a conveyor mechanism containing a body of heated water including a chemical treatment composition selected from a pH modifier, plant nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, microbicides, parasitocides, fungicides or any combination thereof;  
submerging said sawmill waste in said body of heated water for a predetermined period of time to kill microorganisms, insects, plant and animal parasites and the like whilst transporting said treated sawmill waste towards an outlet of said conveyor mechanism; and  
at least partially dewatering said treated sawmill waste to a predetermined moisture content.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said comminuted sawmill waste comprises material of sawmill waste including sawdust, bark and woodchips alone or mixed with up to 20% ww of peat, spent mushroom compost, animal or chicken manure, sewerage sludge, waste

vegetables or vegetable scraps, meat or bone meal of animal origin or the like or selected combinations thereof.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sawmill waste comprises particulate pine bark having a layer of exogenous bark adhering to endogenous bark said method further including the step of at least partially separating said endogenous bark and said exogenous bark.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein at least partial separation of said exogenous bark and said endogenous bark is effected in said conveyor system by the application of mechanical shear forces to said particulate pine bark.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein at least partial separation of said exogenous bark and said endogenous bark is effected during or subsequent to the step of at least partial dewatering of said sawmill waste.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said body of water is heated to a temperature in the range 85° to 125°C.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said body of water is heated to a temperature in the range 100° TO 110°C.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sawmill waste suitably is comminuted to a particle size where substantially all said comminuted sawmill waste passes through a 12 mm screen.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste is at least partially dewatered in said conveyor mechanism adjacent an outlet port thereof.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste is at least partially dewatered under the influence of mechanical pressure.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste is at least partially dewatered in a rotary dewatering apparatus.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said treated sawmill at least partially dewatered treated sawmill waste containing at least partially separated exogenous bark and endogenous bark is subjected to

Appln. No.: 10/521,870  
Docket No.: H2316-00002  
Reply to Office Action dated May 29, 2007

mechanical shear under pressure to loosen fibrous bonds in said at least partially dewatered treated sawmill waste to enhance moisture retention therein.

13. – 31. (Cancelled)